







# JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on  
Jordanian news and views

## Press law: Uncensored version

Jordanian journalists cannot make up their minds when it comes to the draft press and publication law now being debated at the Lower House. The draft law is seen by some as lacking in spirit and content and falling short from being a progressive law regulating the press in Jordan. Others say it is miles ahead of the present law, which allows to many arbitrary interventions by the Ministry of Information.

But what has surprised many observers is the fact that deputies have been toeing the government line so far and have done little to further the cause of a free press in Jordan.

One controversial article in the draft law, which was approved last week, compels reporters to reveal their sources before a court of law. Critics say the article makes a mockery of freedom of the press and the integrity and credibility of journalists. The government says the article is applied only in certain cases where national security is at stake. "This in Jordan not America," said a senior government official. "And even in Britain, you have cases when the security of the country supersedes other issues including the right to protect sources."

The House's Legal Committee had amended a number of articles in the draft law, some of which the government sought to reverse. The task of defending the government's ease was given to Minister of Information, Mr

Mahmoud El Sherif, a veteran journalist himself and a staunch supporter of a free press.

Mr El Sherif inherited the draft law from the previous government and had very little to do with writing it.

While many Jordanian journalists expressed their frustration with the proposed law, government sources said the law represents a watershed in the history of the Jordanian press.

"The law is full of loopholes, both legal and structural," said an editor of a Jordanian newspaper. "But there are positive elements in it nonetheless."

But a source inside the Lower House told *The Star* he did not expect the House to pass the law before the end of the extraordinary session. He expected the debate to be postponed until the opening of the next ordinary session in October. So while the controversy over the future law broils, Jordanian press will continue to function under the present law. "The funny thing is that with the transition between laws, we now have an almost ideal situation where we can say almost anything in the name of democracy," said one reporter. "I wish it could stay like that."

Deputies are wasting everybody's time by spending hours

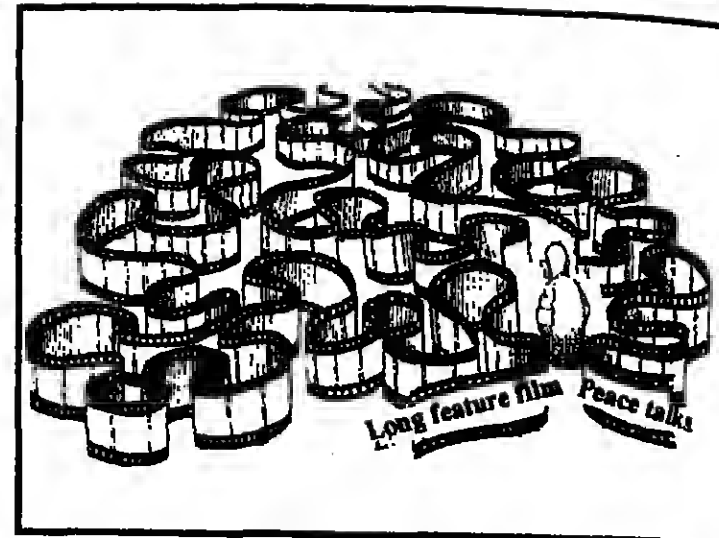
talking about issues like professional ethics; what are they and how do you define them...," said a publisher of an Arabic weekly. "We need to move forward so we can have the law. Remember that many Jordanians are waiting for this law to pass before they can obtain licenses to publish newspapers and magazines."

## The "Brothers" do it again in Madaba

By-elections in the fourth and sixth districts were held on Tuesday, but were characterized by poor voter turnout and general public apathy. Muslim Brothers candidate for the fourth district, Mr Hani Tahrawi, failed to win the contested Lower House seat by 437 votes, which went to the independent candidate Mr Anwar Al Hadid who got 3744 votes. Mr Tahrawi came third and observers said tribal affiliations were the key factor in the district of Quelsmah.

Mr Hadid replaces the late deputy Mr Minwer Al Hadid. About 13,000 voted out of 35,800 registered voters. But the Muslim Brothers had their day in the sixth district of Madaba, south of Amman, where their candidate Mr Mohammad Khrebat Al Azydeh won the contested seat with 8007 votes. He replaces the late deputy Mr Ahmad Al Azydeh. Voter turnout was higher in this district reaching more than 58 per cent.

Observers believe the success of the Muslim Brotherhood in winning the Madaba seat for a second consecutive time indi-



cates that the Islamist movement still enjoys popularity in the Jordanian street. It also points to the dismal failure by other parties to isolate the Islamists and appeal to the voters.

Prime Minister Sharif Zaid ben Shaker, who visited voting centers, dispelled rumors that a new election law was being prepared for next year's general elections. He told *Ad Dustour* daily that next general elections will be held under the present law.

## ESCWA holds an event for the disabled

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) plans to hold a cultural event for disabled persons in the ESCWA region to mark the end of the UN decade of disabled persons. The event, which will be held in cooperation with the UN Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the General Union for Voluntary Societies and the Jordan Sports Federation, will take place from 17 to 18 October.

## Kawar bans water tankers

Minister of Water and Irrigation, Mr Samir Kawar, has asked

the ministries of interior and municipal and rural affairs to stop issuing permits to tanker owners, who sell water to the public. *Ad Dustour* reported that the reason behind the decision is to save Jordan's water reserves. But since summer began many neighborhoods in Amman and other cities have been deprived of water. Their only source is to buy it from water tankers at prices ranging from JD 10 to JD 30 per 7 cubic meters.

Tanker owners get their water from private wells and from springs in the neighboring hills and villages. There were reports about the unsuitability of water obtained from tankers for human consumption.

The question many thirsty Jordanians are putting to Mr Kawar is what other alternatives do they have at their disposal to get drinking water? As one resident of an Amman neighborhood, which has been without government-supplied water for more than a month put it: "We'd like to see the minister move into our neighborhood before he can make such rash decisions."

Tanker owners, who make a good living out of selling the precious liquid, don't like the decision either and say they will continue to sell water so long as there are buyers.

## PTC gets buses

The Public Transport Corp. has agreed with the Jordanian bus manufacturer, ELBA House, to supply the corporation with 100 new buses, *Sawi Al Shaab* reported.

The new buses, with a capacity of 88 passengers each, should ease the congestion along major Amman routes especially in the crowded quarters of east Amman. The report comes few days after the government announced plans to privatize the corporation.

## Pharmacists focus on JD 167,000 embezzlement

The general assembly of the Pharmacists Association has met last week to discuss the embezzlement case in which one association employee has been implicated.

About JD 167,000 have gone missing from a number of association funds including the subscriptions, health insurance, retirement, Iraq and Y/Al/Al/Al funds. The case is now before the court.



## The gateway to hell The hardship of crossing to the other side

AMMAN (Star)— The hardship and humiliation thousands of Palestinians face during their journey across the River Jordan to and from the occupied territories is "a human tragedy", according to a recent report published by the Jerusalem-based Arabic daily *Al Quds*. The paper charges that the hardship is done on purpose by the Israeli authorities with the aim of discouraging Palestinians from returning to their homeland and families.

Before crossing the river to Jordan, Palestinians who spent their summer holidays in the West Bank and Gaza have to gather at a travel station that the Israeli authorities set up in Jericho. "The station looks like a battle field," *Al Quds* says.

Young and old Palestinians have to wait for days before they secure a seat in a crowded bus destined for the bridge. Thirsty, hungry and overheated children scream from young men race for the buses, angry calls of frustrated people looking for their lost luggage fill the air, and everybody is fighting and arguing.

"This is my second trip to this station," says Khadijeh Issa from the occupied West Bank village of Qabaleh. "I have to get back to Amman," she says. "My husband is sick and I have eight children. I have been visiting my family here every summer for the last 10 years, and I have never experienced so much suffering," she says.

About 3500 to 4000 Palestinians leave the occupied territories every day on board the 10 buses that the Israeli authorities have licensed for this route. Many say the number is not enough.

But the agony may soon be over since the season is coming to an end, Jericho mayor Jamil Khalaf says.

He says people could reduce the suffering by following their turns and cooling their tempers. The owner of the bus company that has a monopoly on the route says that travellers are responsible for the chaos in the station. "We will be able to provide transportation to all if people would follow their turn," he says. He adds that his company could increase the number of buses if the Israeli authorities would permit it.

But Israel will not grant him such permission. The Israeli authorities don't want to handle more than one bus at the crossing point at the bridge, says he.

Travellers blame the chaos on other reasons. They are the victims of the chaos and not the cause of it, they say.

Oudeh Al Khouderi from Gaza, who spent one night outside the station, says that officials at the station are causing the delay. He says that priority is given to those who could afford to bribe the Israeli officials. And the number of buses, he says, is far from enough.

"I have been waiting in line for four hours and I am not a step closer to the bus," says Hamdi Abdul Qader. "What turns and what order are you talking about?"

The suffering and delays that people are facing on their way back from the occupied territories adds to the hardships that they incurred on their trip from Jordan.

Palestinian travellers had to wait for weeks in Jordan to get a permission to cross due to Israeli authorities' decision to reduce the number of people allowed to cross the river from 4000 to less than a thousand.

The Jordanian authorities on many occasions appealed to the international community to intervene to end what they too described a human tragedy.

The response has yet to come and many Palestinians are still waiting for a bus ride home.

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# A die-hard tradition of mountain weavers

By Sherley Rizvi

WITH A cultural heritage faced with virtual extinction in their homeland, a ground of Tibetan craftsmen in a Nepalese exile are fighting to preserve their ancient traditions with a firm determination — and a little help from abroad.

The rug makers, based in northern Nepal, are holding on to their craft of 1,000 years, having refused to adopt Chinese mass production techniques which have brought the ancient art of carpet making in Tibet almost to extinction. With sponsorship and help from collectors in Britain, the weavers have been able to adhere

to traditional designs and materials and thus produce authentic Tibetan rugs.

Much of the cultural heritage of the Tibetans was destroyed during the 1950s invasion by China. An estimated 1.2 million Tibetans were killed and 95 per cent of the monasteries were destroyed. Most Tibetan works of art and monuments, with the exception of those which contained some Chinese influence or connection, were laid waste. The persecution led to an exodus and thousands took refuge in neighbouring India and Nepal. Some were scattered in Europe and America.

Further repression was carried

out under the umbrella of the Chinese Cultural Revolution when Tibetan master craftsmen were banned from teaching their arts to the younger generation. Although the post-1979 period has seen some improvement, with a few monasteries and temples restored and re-opened, most of the damage has been irreparable.

Most Tibetan refugees, with the Dalai Lama as their guide, live in the hope of one day returning to their homes and survive to preserve their culture in whatever way they can for future generations.

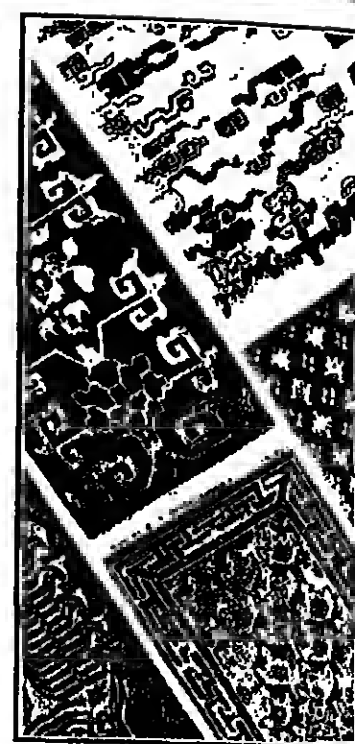
Phuntsog Wangyal of the Tibet Foundation in London sees recent reforms by the Chinese govern-

ments as "cosmetic," leaving the burden of preserving Tibetan traditions on the exiles' shoulders. "Their first job is to survive in their difficult circumstances; the second is really to try to preserve as much as possible for the future generation, who will be like the seeds, when they return to Tibet."

The rugs made by the mountain exiles of northern Nepal are part of this concerted effort to preserve a way of life. It all started when French-born graphic designer Alain Rouveure befriended a family of Tibetan refugees while trekking in Nepal. He became interested in their vegetable-dyeing techniques and stayed with them for several months to learn about their designs.

The friendship has given way to a partnership and the Crossing Cottage Galleries in the village of Todenham, near England's famous Stratford-upon-Avon, is home base for the rugs.

Over 200 ancient designs taken from private collections around



the world have now been reproduced by the exiles. Tibetan rugs are very unlike the better known decorative Persian or Chinese styles. The patterns are inspired by nature, folklore and the mystical symbolism of Tibetan Buddhism, like snow lions, phoenix motifs, lotus flowers, peonies, dragons and mandalas.

From the very outset the process of production adheres strictly to ancient methods. Wool from Tibetan mountain sheep is transported by yak and mule to low land areas where it is washed by hand in streams rising in the mountains.

After it is spun by hand the wool is then dyed using age-old methods and recipes that are individual to each of the families involved. Then it is hand-knotted on upright wooden looms with a traditional density for about 60 knots per square inch.

Alain Rouveure, who exhibits and lectures on Tibetan rugs, visits the group each year commissioning and collecting rugs which he sees as a "representation of a living tradition which is under severe threat owing to the western market's insatiable appetite for oriental rugs."

"The demands of mass production have meant that the pride and confidence of traditional rug-makers in their craftsmanship and culture is rapidly being eroded," he said. "Rugs which are easy to produce have, understandably, become extremely important to the local economy. As a result, a new generation of rug-makers is unwilling and increasingly unable to work to traditional patterns and techniques."

"My concern is that the West, having unwittingly encouraged the loss of these designs and skills, will lose interest in the 'new' rug it has created and, as with the Chinese rug so popular in the 1960s and 70s, move on to corrupt the skills and traditions of another culture."

There is no doubt that without sales and patronage the venture will not survive and the price tags ranging from £150 to £1,500, are hardly comparable to the value placed on other rugs of similar quality.

Although increasing interest in Britain and Europe has helped to stave off the immediate threat posed to this tiny, fragile and traditional industry, it is very possible that this unique art form could be lost forever without the recognition it so richly deserves.

Academic File

Sherley Rizvi is the executive editor of Academic File.



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## IBM & Apple: A friendship or a hoax?

THE MEDIA has been quite some time about the IBM/Apple alliance announced in June of last year. This is probably so because the publicity stunt was over. But Apple and IBM don't seem to think so. In fact they're taking it quite seriously. Steps are being taken all the time to allow Macintosh and PC computers in the office to talk to each other a little more easier.

Only recently, Apple announced that MS-DOS disks can be used directly in a Macintosh computer for some of the most popular applications. What this basically means is that the Macintosh will emulate the PC using such products as Soft PC or the Orange 386 card. So users will have to choose between software emulation or hardware emulation.

The Orange 386 card provides your Macintosh with 386-based PC performance. It also comes complete with expansion slots inside most modular Macintosh machines. As for Insignia's product SoftPC, it also offers full emulation but without any extra hardware. That leaves the problem of file swapping which can be handled by three features to be built into every Macintosh: file translation capability, MS-DOS compatible floppy disk drive and Novell Network compatible networking.

You can expect to use applications like Lotus 1-2-3, Microsoft Word and dBase successfully with the system. The idea at the moment is to allow this to work the other way round too. PCs should soon be able to accept Macintosh disks.

So what's the latest on the Apple, IBM, Motorola company we were told about last year? Well, the company's name is AIMI, which stands for the first letter in the names of the partners who set it up. This company is going to be responsible for the development of the Power PC. The computer that will lead the world into the 21st Century, or something to that effect. It is basically a new IBM PC with the operating system from Apple and the chips from Motorola. Some say the hidden motive behind it was to blow Microsoft's monopoly of the operating systems market and Intel's monopoly of the chip market.

Early last year we relished the fact that PC and Mac users were at each other's throats in a "my-computer-is-better-than-yours" fight. Today things look totally different as cooperation is increasing between the makers of the two and contrary to what competitors are saying, this looks like a serious alliance.

PC and Mac people got their first chance to meet together in an IBM show during the IBM '92 show held in Britain recently in which Apple had a stand! This incident showed the strong ties and the new found friendship between the two giants of the computer industry.

At IBM, they say that Apple is still a fierce competitor, but only in certain fields. In other fields it's a strong ally and nice to work with. Brings a tear to your eye, doesn't it?

## Logitech's Kidz mouse for the Macintosh

LOGITECH INC., international market leader in input technology introduced Kidz Mouse for the Macintosh, the first Macintosh computer peripheral product developed specifically for children.

Ergonomically designed to fit smaller hands and look like a friendly "mouse", Kidz Mouse is an entry level pointing device that makes it easy and fun to use a computer for homework, games or educational software. It provides the control and precision of a grown-up mouse in a comfortable, appealing shape for children. Kidz Mouse operates with

Macintosh Classic or above. It is easy to install and features two buttons "ears" that act as one button so that children can press either ear for desired result. It is designed to withstand years of rough treatment and carries a lifetime warranty. It reflects Logitech's commitment to humanizing the computer by providing more natural means of human to computer education.

Selling at a retail price of \$79, the Macintosh-compatible Kidz Mouse has been available since July through Logitech dealers and distributors. Kidz Mouse is also available in a PC version.



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## A technical history of computer music How it all began

By Haltham Ibrahim  
Special to The Star

MUSIC IS certainly not the child of today, but has its roots dug deep in the ancient history of mankind. But to a pair of prehistoric ears, today's music would sound as foreign as a Marilan folksong. New doesn't this make you wonder?

Today's technology is a great magician that has turned the world upside down, and music has not escaped its influence. The proliferation of music has reached its optimum level in the past few decades due to tremendous advancements in the fields of recording and audio-visual communications.

In my opinion, the biggest revolution in the making of music where technology had the deepest effect is in the making of musical instruments themselves, especially keyboards. We will try to delve into the foreign waters of computer and synthesizer music in three separate articles. This should give you a basic understanding of this exciting subject.

People were making music and musical instruments long before they could read or write. The earliest musical instrument was the drum, which was later followed by simple wind instruments. Much later came strings and brass instruments. Keyboards are another type of musical instru-

ments, the most famous of which is the piano.

If you want to make music in a traditional way, you'd probably bring a set of drums and a bunch of guitars and start jamming! Well, not any more. You can, solely, make up a whole band by bringing a computer and a couple of synthesizers.

Synthesizers are essentially keyboards with electronic circuitry. They can produce sounds unattainable on any other instruments due to their unique engineering structure that allows you to create your own sounds. Don't get very curious, we'll have more to say about that in coming articles.

The synth. can be hooked up to a computer, which functions as a multi-track recorder here, giving astounding musical results and allowing for more personal creative edge. But what relevance does all of this have when you can bring a multitrack deck and record for a hundred years? You see, when you use a synth., along with a computer, you can have more control over your music. After you play a certain part you can edit the notes on the computer screen, which is not allowed with an ordinary tape deck.

Also with the introduction of the synth., newer styles of music have emerged due to the different textures of synthesized sounds which don't exist in nature. It's like discovering a new world of sonics, which really does give

you new inspiration. Today's music sounds so different from its predecessors. Never before did we have as many styles, nor did we ever have such an enormous library to choose from. Technology has allowed us to explore new musical territory — both in structure and composition.

Modern music was actually invented even before synths. were introduced. It goes back to the 1940s when some black musicians put together electric guitars and drums producing R&B (rhythm'n'blues). R&B is the father of modern music. Some white musicians took R&B in a different direction thereby inventing rock'n'roll.

Things escalated until the mid 1960s when the first commercial analog synth. was introduced. The musical revolution hardly began at the time. Synth. players were only considered high-tech nerds who don't belong in bands. Things started to change in the late 1960s when the first electronic pop record was produced by Kraftwerk in 1968. They showed that knob tweaking can yield funky results.

Hang around next time as we'll bring the microscope down onto how music is made today on synths. and computers. Maybe you can experience the power of technology yourself. ■

Haltham Ibrahim is a member of a "The Project" Jordanian band.

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## Regional Business Report



### Indian chemical company won't stop shipment to Syria

THE Indian manufacturer of a chemical that can be used for weapons said he could not stop a shipment bound for Syria, unless there is evidence the product will be misused.

The statement followed reports that a 45-ton shipment of a pesticide ingredient exported by United Phosphorous Ltd. had been stopped in Cyprus and sent back, for fear that Syria would use it to make chemical weapons.

The ingredient, *trimethyl phosphite*, is used to make the pesticide *dichloro divinyl phosphite*. But it also can be used for nerve gas.

United Phosphorous, a Bombay-based private firm, has signed an agreement to export a total of 90 tons of the chemical (worth 6 million rupees or \$200,000) to Setma Ltd. in Damascus.

The first half of the order of 45 tons reached Damascus on 30 May 1992, Rajju Shroff, the company's owner told the *Associated Press*.

Shroff added he "cannot stop the (second) shipment unless some evidence is given to the company that Syria is misusing the chemicals."

He said the chemical was exported to Syria "only after due verification and there is no possibility of misuse of the material."

The second consignment was shipped aboard a cargo liner, German Senator, on 15 July. The

ship was stopped from unloading in Cyprus, where it was to be transferred to a Syria-bound shipment.

Shroff said an engineer from his company had visited Syria to ascertain whether Setma Ltd. had a pesticide plant. He said he had obtained an "end use certificate" from the Syrian Chamber of Commerce, which was attested by the Indian Embassy in Damascus.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported that Israel has supplied the Americans with the names of several companies which have been selling the country's self-declared enemies with not only knowhow and parts, but also heavy machinery and other equipment for the production of weapons of mass destruction.

### Turkey soothes Syria fears

SYRIA and Turkey have decided to revive joint ministerial meetings on water and agriculture.

During a visit two weeks ago, Mr Hikmet Cetin, the Turkish foreign minister, reassured Mr Farouq Al Shara, his counter-part in Damascus, that Turkey would continue the supply of water to Syria, as under previous agreements.

Turkey controls the Euphrates river and has plans to irrigate more than 1 million hectares close to the Syrian border as part of its \$32 billion Gap project.

Water, however, is also vital for Syrian agriculture, and do-

mestic and industrial supply.

Under a 1987 protocol, a flow of 500 cubic metres a second, or about half the average discharge, was guaranteed at the common border, while Turkey's \$4 billion Ataturk dam was under construction.

Turkish water officials say Syria can only use about a third of that amount, given saline soils and a higher rate of evaporation. Even so, Turkey has proposed various joint projects, including a plan to flood the common border to maximize power generation. It has also offered to supply power to cities in northern Syria.

Mr Suleyman Demirel, Turkey's prime minister, last month strongly rejected Syrian calls to share the water. "We do not say we should share their oil resources. They cannot say they should share our water resources."

However, Mr Cetin's visit could pave the way for financial assistance for the Gap from World Bank and other western donors, which have been wary of supporting a project under dispute. Co-operation will be further enhanced by a decision to revive the joint agriculture and water meetings.

### Iran seeking nuclear power

IRAN said recently that it was conducting talks with China and "some other interested countries," believed to be Russia, North and South Korea, about the construction of an undisclosed number of nuclear power stations. *The Independent* revealed.

A deputy director of the Iranian Atomic Energy organization in Tehran criticized Germany for its "deliberate failure to respect its engagements" in respect of a \$700-million nuclear power station started in the Iranian port of Bushir by German companies under the Shah and bombed out by Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war. Iran has refused to rebuild the plant according to original plans. North Korea is already helping



US marines leap out of a helicopter during military exercises at a Kuwaiti airbase close to the Iraqi border. The war games continued as The New York Times reported that the Allied powers may launch an attack against Iraq to boost President Bush's chances of winning the November presidential elections.

Tehran with atomic research for military purposes and Russia is believed to have offered Iran its own nuclear technology. The deputy director rejected the Western and Israeli accusations that Iran was building a nuclear industry for military purposes.

### China leans on Israel to drop Taiwan jet deal

CHINA is putting pressure on the Israeli government not to go ahead with a proposal to sell 40 Kfir fighter aircraft to Taiwan, a deal which could be worth \$400 million to Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), the country's main arms-maker.

Israel's Prime Minister Mr Yitzhak Rabin has become involved in intense discussion within his cabinet over the issue. It pitches Israel's newly-forged diplomatic relations with Beijing against an important contract for the biggest state-owned company, which is struggling to restore profit margins after lapsing into losses in the late 1980s.

IAI has refused to comment on the deal, but is known to have

been in discussion with Taiwan about the Kfir sale for some time. Although a relatively old aircraft, IAI has the advanced avionics and weapons technology to make an up-to-date version of the Kfir, originally a copy of the French *Mirage*.

China only opened diplomatic relations with Israel earlier this year. Israeli officials are concerned that going ahead with the Kfir deal could jeopardize lucrative trade prospects in China, which it began to nurture before official ties were completed.

The agreements establishing diplomatic links included Israel's signature on a document which in effect acknowledged that Taiwan was a province of China, not an independent state.

But supporters of the Kfir sale argue that other countries have sold weapons to Taiwan without damaging their trade with China. The final decision will rest with Mr Rabin.

### North American trade pact may hurt Israeli firms

THE free trade agreement reached between the US, Mexico and Canada may have a dampening effect on Israeli exports to the US as well as US investment in Israel, Israeli officials fear.

"The agreement will mean stiffer competition for Israeli exports to the US, especially those that are based on cheap labor, such as textiles, clothing and shoes," noted Zohar Peri, director of Israel's ministry of industry and trade's foreign trade administration.

Israel has had a free-trade agreement with the US since 1985. Every similar agreement signed by the US makes this agreement somewhat less powerful, Peri explained.

In addition, any resulting increase in exports of US products to Mexico and Canada might cause problems for Israeli exporters who supply parts for such products due to rules of origin. Mexicans and Canadians may not be willing to recognize the product as "Made in USA," if there are Israeli parts included, Peri added.

A similar problem may result if many US manufacturers move to Mexico, making it harder for them to use Israeli parts.

Peri also noted that US investment in Mexico is likely to increase, at the expense of investment in other countries including Israel.

By Sajid Rizvi  
Special to The Star

## The shame of Europe

# A nation sinks in Bosnia



Muslim and Croatian prisoners in a Serbian war camp

THE COLD War's end was welcomed all around because it set free, like the doves on a festive day, nationalities that had been shackled by a succession of tyrannical regimes. New republics sprouted in this spring of restored freedom, albeit amid recrudescence of old wounds, but the overall message was one of optimism and recovery. It is the irony of all ironies then to see Bosnia-Herzegovina sinking into virtual oblivion while all of Europe, all of the world community, sits on the fence, feet dangling.

Is Bosnia to be the first of the new states to disappear from the new European map? It seems so. In their public pronouncements, Bosnian leaders seem convinced that the Serbian objective remains to sweep across Sarajevo and the last remaining strongholds of Muslim Slavs.

"Bosnia may be swamped, finished, within a few weeks," a Bosnian official was quoted as saying. "It would then be in Serbia's interest to talk peace."

Sheikh Salih Colakovic, the Grand Mufti of Bosnia-Herzegovina who visited London recently, told this writer he believed the Serbians were determined on the path of erasing the culture and political entity of the state. Both the United Nations and UNESCO have been pined with detailed accounts of the systematic destruction of Bosnia's architectural and cultural legacy. What do we hear in the world media? Next to nothing.

The immediate issues therefore are: what can be salvaged from the mounting rubble of the war in Bosnia and whether any agency equipped to do so will come forward? If the European response to the most urgent of Bosnia's necessities, i.e. saving lives of the innocent fleeing the war, is any indication, the outlook for a comprehensive rescue of Bosnia as a nation-state must be seen to be very dim.

We can forget about the gutted museums and libraries, the desecrated cemeteries and the flattened mosques. But the refugees? So far, European governments seem unable to find a coherent answer. In seeking primarily to delay concrete action European governments have come up with novel solutions. No proposal has met with stronger condemnation

than Britain's idea that Bosnia's refugees should remain confined within the borders of the former Yugoslavia.

At first glance, the idea seems reasonable enough. The former Yugoslavia is a large territory, greater in land mass than the former West Germany, and there should be plenty of room for an estimated 2 million on the march. The problem is: Yugoslavia

lives only in diplomats' dreams. The carve-up of the country is complete, and getting more complex each passing day. Of the Bosnian republic that lives increasingly in name only, nearly three-fourths is in Serbian control and the rest within range of Serbian weapons. Assuming any Bosnians cross the various frontlines safely the choice of sanctuaries available to the survivors is

limited. Neighboring Croatia, itself in two minds about the viability of Bosnia, has sheltered more than 600,000 people and now faces economic ruin. Macedonia and Slovenia are finding it difficult to support native populations. Montenegro remains, for most Bosnians, about as hostile as Serbia. Of the other east European neighbors, Hungary is the only one to have opened its doors but may not keep them open for long. The influx of refugees there already exceeds 100,000 and Hungary simply doesn't have the resources.

The only viable solution, therefore, is temporary shelter for the refugees in other parts of Europe. And that's what has been happening. Germany has taken in more than 200,000 refugees, many of them through Croatia, and Austria, Sweden, the Netherlands, France and Spain will follow suit.

The numbers to be accepted by these rich host nations in the West still fall far short of the numbers in need of relocation to safety. But the temporary shelter will give at least some of the survivors a second chance in life.

Will the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina get a second chance? This seems increasingly in doubt. The relocation of Bosnians to temporary shelters outside the war zone, after all, fits in with Serbian designs — first the "ethnic cleansing" and then territorial conquest.

It is precisely because of this added dimension that what seems to be a near resolution of the Bosnian refugee crisis should not be seen in that light at all.

The Europeans may have been shamed into offering sanctuaries to their Muslim brethren, but they are still miles away from addressing the real issues. Will the Serbians give them enough time? ■

Sajid Rizvi is the managing editor of Academic File.

## In the BCCI's Shadow — Britain's frustrated Asians

By Gareth Geyans

BIRMINGHAM, England — More than a year after the forced closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in Britain, the long shadow cast by the bank's sudden demise continues to haunt Asians worst hit by its collapse.

So deep are the undercurrents of frustration and bitterness that almost every other issue — from unemployment to racism to the Salman Rushdie affair — has been relegated to a secondary position.

Despite the high priority that the BCCI aftermath occupies in the Asian community, its effects allow little sign of being dispelled soon. In fact, according to Asian business sources, many Asian merchants and traders are finding new doors being closed on them.

The BCCI has left thousands of Asians tarred with the same brush, said one trader in this major center of Asian enterprise, who requested anonymity. "It has created a major crisis of confidence between British financial institutions, particularly high street banks, and the Asian community."

"The British government is doing nothing about it, and I doubt whether it will," What Asians see as government "inaction" has

expressed by many Asians but never substantiated, that the BCCI closure was a "device to get us."

While thousands of Asians are said to feel that they may never recover from the shock of losing assets and cash in the wake of the BCCI's collapse, others are finding it hard to start up new businesses.

"Suddenly Asian entrepreneurs are being asked more questions than normal practice calls for," said one merchant who recently had a grueling session at a Barclays Bank branch.

"The bigger the bank on the high street, the more bloody minded it is going to be towards Asian entrepreneurs."

The merchant, with proven liquid assets of more than a million pounds, said he found the attitude of the bank officials during the interview "humiliating, to say the least. And all I wanted was to talk about opening a business account with an overdraft facility."

Paul Nischall, a leading member of Birmingham's Institute of Asian Businesses and owner of Forward Estates, an estate agency in the city, recently acknowledged that "many Asians are having difficulty in getting loans from the four main clearing banks following the collapse of BCCI."

The British banks' behavior already is having a knock-on effect with Asian banks ironically emulating the British examples. "As if the British banks' high-handedness were not bad enough, Asian banks are aping them, too, saying they want to stay on 'the safe side'."

Banks from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh all have toughened their administrative procedures, to the frustration and annoyance of Asian businessmen. The Indian government began to tighten administrative procedures in the aftermath of the share purchase scandal centered on the Reserve Bank of India. This was made worse by a series of bad loans abroad, some of them in Britain.

Three major Indian banks, the State Bank of India, the Bank of India and the Bank of Baroda have extensive independent operations in Britain. Because all three compete for essentially the same market amongst the Indian community, they were unusually responsive in the past to the needs of Indian business. But the BCCI affair, plus aftershocks from financial scandals in India, have led to changes for the worse.

Pakistani banks similarly are going to "unusual lengths" to prove they are good and different, and making a hash of things in the process, said one Pakistani businessman.

"So palpable is the dread of being branded with the stigma of a BCCI-style behavior that some executive I know have simply stopped doing anything at all," he added. "They are in virtual paralysis, and a pain to work with."

The attempt to distance from the BCCI and to undo the damage caused by the bank's collapse has taken many forms. The Bank of India, for example, has been paying out money to depositors who lost their funds in BCCI accounts.

This has been welcomed as a positive development, but Indian banking experts point out, it has also strengthened the Indian government's argument for greater control on banks. Already, the Indian banks are some of the most tightly controlled banks in the world.

This would be considered an advantage, say the experts, but for the fact that the Indian banking system is also fraught with many antiquated practices which offer loopholes for fraudsters. So, while Indian banks remain preoccupied with domestic problems and damage-control exercises, they are unlikely to come to the aid of distressed Asian businessmen in Britain in any significant way.

But Asian businessmen, especially those with limited assets, are

unlikely to sit idle. As one prominent retail company owner put it, "The British and Asian banks have to realize that it is, after all, the buyer's market. Businessmen who have nothing to hide and healthy bank accounts will go where the terms are the best."

"In the new European environment," he said, "there is no shortage of banks who'd welcome you with open arms." Most Asians in business are British citizens who say they would rather do business with German or French banks "than be treated like dirt by these banks here."

The banks which have received the most scathing Asian criticism for their unreasonable behavior are also the biggest in Britain — Barclays, National Westminster, Lloyds and Midland.

As Asian businessmen increasingly travel outward to seek new markets in North America and Europe, they are becoming aware of the difference in service they receive at home and from banks abroad.

So, thousands of Asian businessmen face what they see as avoidable hardship, many predict a backlash that will leave high street banks in Britain smarting, or prod them into mending their ways. ■

Gareth Geyans is a writer based in Birmingham.

## Eastern Art Report

Eastern Art Report is the foremost international bi-monthly magazine covering the whole span of the visual arts of Asia—from the Middle East to Japan. The traditional and contemporary aspects of the arts of the Islamic world and of South and Southeast Asia, China and Japan are examined in authoritative articles, interviews and reviews in each bimonthly issue.

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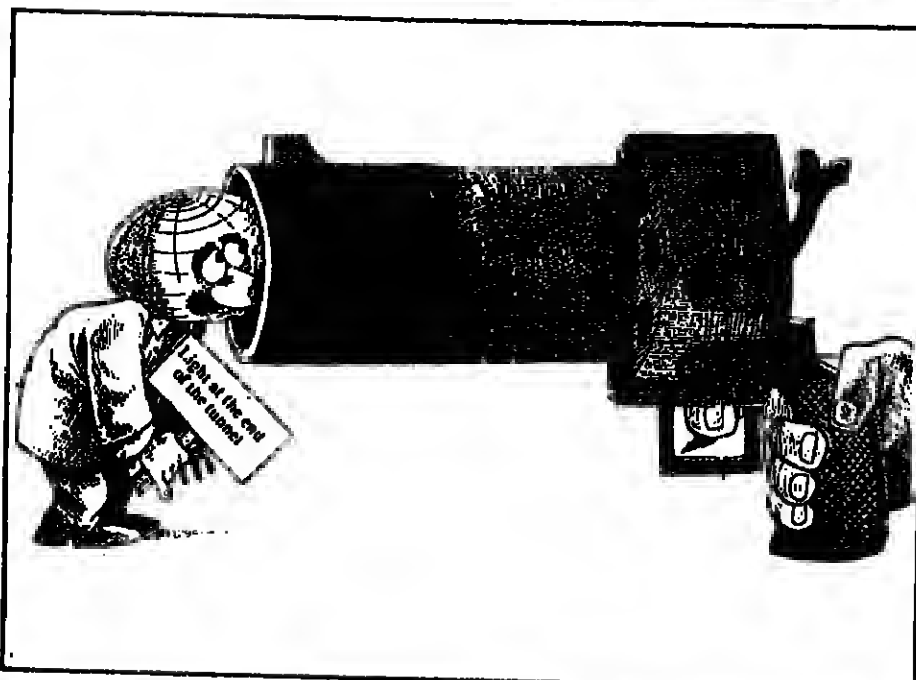
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## Our Say....

### Iraq in the US elections

PRESIDENT GEORGE Bush is in trouble. He is fighting for his political survival and that of the Republican party. He badly needs a reason to derail Democratic candidate Bill Clinton's speeding campaign train, and he believes Iraq's Saddam Hussein is going to give him that reason. Well, he's wrong. Whatever the American voters are thinking about today, it certainly isn't the Gulf and the "bully of Baghdad" any more. We know this because the American people are saying it, expressing it and are demonstrating it in opinion polls and other media.

Mr Bush would be failing his biggest test as president if he is unable to sense what his people want. American politics is complex and the issues in this year's elections are as real as the unemployment figures, the increasing number of homeless in America's urban centers, the small businesses that are going bust, the big businesses that have lost their sense of direction, crime, drugs, the environment among others.

So what is the recipe for success on election day as prescribed by the president in Houston this week? Bomb the Iraqis! We can't help but become interested in American elections more than any other elections in the Western hemisphere because it directly affects our lives. It is Washington that calls the tunes in this region, from igniting Hollywood-style wars; to bringing the feuding nations of this region to the peace table. It is Washington that has the money, the influence, the hardware and everything else that has to do with region's survival. So naturally we have an interest in knowing who leads the race to the White House because he will be the man we will have to put up with for another four, or even eight, years.

Having said this, we also have a direct interest in keeping away the spectre of another war from this beleaguered region. It is unfortunate that the countries of the area have to be dragged, by the candidates, into the presidential elections race. Few days ago President Bush decided to award Israel the loan guarantees it badly needs to salvage its waning economy. By doing so President Bush, while appeasing Jewish voters at home, broke the back of the peace process just when it was picking up meaningful momentum.

Then the nervous president calls up the ghosts of the Gulf War and brings Saddam Hussein once more into the limelight and makes him an election issue. It is said that Mr Bush would risk another bloody confrontation with Iraq for the sake of boosting his ratings at the polls. The price will not be borne by the Iraqi regime, but by innocent Iraqis, victims of pin-point accurate bombing raids similar to that of Ammyriah shelter and others where collateral damage was unavoidable.

The excuse for the latest British, American and French threat to Iraq falls to occupy a moral high ground. Its dismal failure is exposed further by the horrible atrocities carried out by Serbian forces, occupying more than 90 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina, against Muslim civilians before the eyes, ears and noses of UN observers, the international press and the whole world.

It looks as if we are to become the "usual" victims of Mr Bush's new world order. It is here that this order has seen the light, born over the skies of Baghdad and out of the hellish agony of its people. Once again Bush's world order is valuing us with promises of air strikes, bloodletting, partition and destruction. This time there is another prize to be won, a second term in office for Mr Bush. But unlike previous adventures, there is no Vietnam complex to unwind or coddly Kuwaitis to liberate. What is at stake is America's future and its own internal survival. This is one war Mr Bush will have to win on his own.

## Letter from Washington

### Why Americans don't want to give Bush a second term

By Jenab Tutunji

AS THE 35th Republican National Convention opened in Houston, Texas, this week, President Bush's chances for re-election did not look too good. The United States is grappling with hard economic times, with no end in sight, yet Mr Bush has no credible agenda to lead the country out of the recession: he lacks vision and Americans are wondering what he plans to do with another term in office.

Only 14 per cent of adult Americans approve of Mr Bush's handling of the economy (a tie with Jimmy Carter's nadir ratings). The middle class is largely alienated, particularly the "middle income" group (those earning between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year), who are leaning towards Bill Clinton, the Democratic nominee, because they perceive George Bush as the candidate of the rich. Obviously, the Reagan and Bush trickle down theory: lowering taxes for the rich in the expectation that they will invest the surplus liquidity in the US economy, creating jobs, has not worked. Instead, higher taxes on the middle class have dried up consumer spending, which is an important cause of the recession.

People are weary of Republican administrations that have hiked up the national debt to heights unprecedented since WWII as a percentage of the Gross National Product. Meanwhile, the Republican policy of deregulation has opened the door to swindlers of every sort to loot the Savings and Loan institutions, with the connivance of some members of Congress, swelling the deficit. This has added to the mountain of debt incurred by Ronald Reagan's defence spending in his successful bid to bankrupt the Soviet economy.

Both Reagan and Bush are claiming credit for the demise of the Soviet "empire." (Interestingly, the latest polls indicate that Mr Reagan's charisma is evaporating: he is receiving the same approval rating, in retrospect, as Mr Carter).

Women are also alienated from the party over the abortion issue. The party platform has declared implacable opposition to abortion, whereas 70 per cent of Republican women are in favor of a woman's right to choose. In fact, the convention approved a plank calling for an amendment to the constitution that would ban abortion. The Chairwoman of the National Republican Coalition for Choice responded: "The men in power have won a short-term battle, but the ultimate battle — the November election — is still ahead."

Mr Bush appears to want things to go on as they are. This is really hurting him. According to the latest New York Times/CBS poll, 92 per cent of those questioned said they needed a real change, and a majority said they thought things would not change if Bush were re-elected. Sixty three per cent believe that electing Mr Clinton will produce a real change.

Of course, the publicity generated by the convention itself is expected to give a boost to Mr Bush's ratings, a phenomenon known as the "convention bounce," but this is not expected to erase all of the 17 percentage point lead that Mr Clinton has. No president whose approval ratings have dipped as low as Mr Bush's have ever been re-elected.

Another very interesting swing in the public mood concerns the Gulf War. Those questioned in the poll picked the Gulf War more often than any other answer to the question: "If you could change one thing

George Bush did during his presidency, what would it be?" In addition, 49 per cent disapprove of his current handling of relations with Iraq, while only 40 per cent support his policies.

### Bush and Iraq

President Bush is ready to resume a get tough policy with Iraq. A front page report by Patrick Tyler in the *New York Times* last Sunday to the effect that the Bush Administration had decided to provoke a confrontation with the government of Iraq over access to the Ministry of Military Industrialization, timed to coincide with the opening of the Republican convention, was quickly denied by an irate President Bush. It appears likely that Mr Tyler's sources were right, particularly as most tips to the UN inspection team that led to searches come from US sources. The publicity generated by the *New York Times* article appears to have forced the administration to rethink its Iraq policy in the face of warnings by Democratic leaders not to play politics with the nation's foreign policy. The United Nations also appears to have had second thoughts and has decided to salvage its reputation in this connection.

But this does not mean that the Bush administration has backed down from a confrontation with Iraq. It has merely postponed it. We shall probably see less hypocrisy in the future and a more open avowal of the desire to protect Shi'ite rebels in the south of Iraq as a way to undermine President Saddam Hussein's authority. Press reports speak of a change of heart in the Bush Administration towards the Shi'ite rebellion for this reason. The US, Britain and France have agreed to create a "no fly zone" south of the 32nd parallel in Iraq, where no fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters belonging to Iraq will be allowed to operate. The US has all the forces in place to shoot down Iraqi aircraft in this air exclusion zone, including AWACS aircraft in Saudi Arabia and carrier and land based strike aircraft in the Gulf.

The US could invoke the cease-fire agreement to justify banning the use of combat aircraft by Iraq, but that would be hypocritical, as the justification for such provisions was the desire to protect US, British and French servicemen, not Iraqi Shi'ites. In addition, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf expressly allowed Iraq to fly helicopters at the end of the war. The United States did not object when Iraq started flying fixed-wing aircraft in April following an Iranian air strike on an anti-Tehran guerrilla base in Iraq.

On July 22, the Baghdad government used fixed-wing aircraft against Shi'ite rebel positions for the first time. Now Washington believes a large-scale operation using armor and aircraft is imminent against the Shi'ites.

The Bush Administration has recourse to a more honest justification for the creation of a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq, however, through Security Council Resolution 688, which forbids the Iraqi government from taking action to repress its citizens by any means. This is a more moral position. The danger incurred, of course, is that with another zone of this nature already established in the north to protect the Kurds, Iraq risks being partitioned into three zones.

Jenab Tutunji is a Jordanian journalist living in Washington.

## The Arabs today

# Outsiders in a modern world

By Dr Abdel-Qader Yassine

ANYONE WHO has had much to do with the Arab world over a long period has observed the everwidening gap, which has opened over the last 40 years between the "lurid" — what Arabs today refer to as the legacy of the great Islamic religious and cultural tradition (from which Europe once learned so much) — and "hadatha" (modernity).

It was this modernity, or a somewhat naive view of it, which carried the day when, following World War II, the young Arab states were gradually released from the colonial and post-colonial dominance of the European powers.

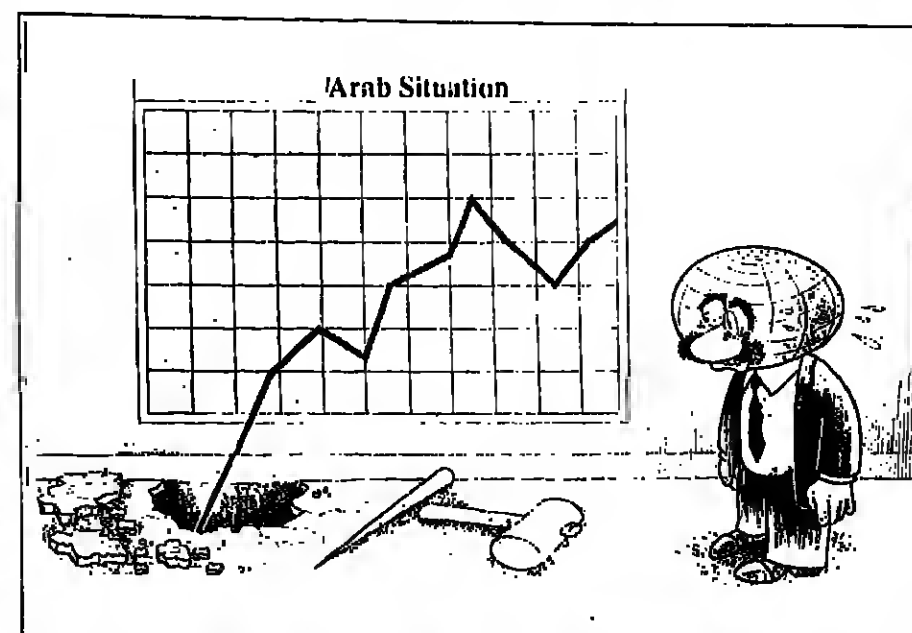
Socialism and central planning were seen as essential attributes and urgent necessity for progress. It was also important to acquire modern weaponry to counter the growing military might of the then newly created Israel.

Parties like the *Ba'ath* molded pan-Arab nationalism and progress into their own ideology, arguing that, like the Germans or Italians, the Arab people would realize their full potential as a single great nation.

Charismatic leaders, notably Jamal Abdul Nasser, who nationalized the Suez Canal, personified these ideals and appealed more directly to the Arab masses. However, those leaders were personally affected by humiliating defeats like the June 1967 war.

The 1967 defeat was to become a watershed in the Arab world. It shook the naive belief socialism as a model for progress. The shock was compounded by the failure of Nasser's economic policies even before the June 1967 war.

Pan-Arabism had also suffered grave setbacks due to revolutionary Iraq's refusal to join the United Arab Republic (a short-lived merger of Egypt and Syria —



1958-61), Syria's subsequent withdrawal from the union, and the civil war in Yemen.

By that time many Arabs came to believe that progress itself, especially through the Socialist model, was an imported concept alien to their culture and accused Abdul Nasser of ignoring Islam. Indeed, Nasser persecuted his political rivals, especially among the Muslim Brotherhood.

After taking power in Libya in September 1969, Colonel Mu'ammur Qadhafi declared that he would follow Nasser's policies except in Islamic matters. Eventually, however, he too came into conflict with the representatives of political Islam when he tried to promulgate his own interpretation of the religion.

A phase of grouping for a new orienta-

tion then set in. Some leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded in 1928, had already come to believe that only an Islamic state — adhering strictly to the rules of the *Shari'a* — could return power and honour to the Muslim world.

The struggle against the Israeli occupation of Palestine also played a major role in shaping the political culture of the region. Taking as their model the ragging war in Vietnam, many Arabs believed the popular war against Israel would bring the entire Arab nation together.

The hope of forging a united Arab front against Israel, however, was shattered by the flaring up of internal conflicts.

Factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization clashed with the Jordanian authorities in 1970 and was forced out of the Kingdom.

The organization then moved to Lebanon where it became party to that country's civil war, which broke out in the mid 1970s, and was accused of forming a "state within a state." The division was further manifested when Egypt's late president Anwar Al Sadat signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

By the beginning of the 1980s, the Arab world had become a region without a center.

This was also the decade of bloody inter-Arab and inter-regional duels: between the *Ba'athist* regime in Syria and the Muslim Brothers, which ended in September 1982 with the storming of Hama by special Syrian troops.

With this brief review of the political search for a place in today's world in mind, was the entire Arab world not barking up the wrong tree by adopting foreign models of development in the name of progress? In the process of emulating western norms and ways, we have imported, along with weapons systems, the values of these cultures from cosmetics to latest fashions, from universities to TV films, from modern art to comic strips.

In the present cultural vacuum that is evident in the Arab world today, a resurgence of Islamic values is taking place. Islam once again is presenting itself as a home-grown political and cultural model, from which the Arabs can draw true strength to deal with other cultures and — most importantly — the challenges to their existence. This call for political Islam is being furthered by fundamentalist groups throughout the Arab world and in almost every country in the region.

The fundamentalist movement in the Arab world was given enormous boost when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini drove out the Shah in February 1979 and proclaimed an Islamic republic in Iran. The new republic, ruled by the clergy, saw itself as the center of a new Islamic International, and tried to function as such. Tehran provided support, advice, and reinforcement to the extremist supporters of political Islam, and at the same time paid greater attention to their moderate ri-

vals, who were likewise striving for a political Islamic state but without recourse to violent revolution.

In order to weaken the extremists, Arab governments began supporting the moderates, and Saudi oil money, magnified by the oil price hikes of 1973 and 1980, was placed at their disposal in generous quantities.

With the dividing line between them often blurred, both the radical and revolutionary elements, and their moderate rivals advocated a return to the mythic times when the Prophet walked the earth and set out for all time the rules of life which were to guide the *Ummah*. The Islamists were never disturbed by the fact that, in reality, the centuries-old body of sacred law is based on a particular interpretation of the Quran and *Hadith*, undertaken by scholars two centuries after the death of the Prophet and naturally reflecting that era's society and its comprehension of Prophet Muhammad's legacy.

Their blindness may be largely explained by their passionate need for success. The ineluctable drive to triumph somehow; to finally show the world that the Arabs are capable of meeting the challenge of the West (and of Israel), may certainly be traced back to Western colonialism of this region and its humiliating chapters. But the urge to succeed also has a religious root. God said to the Muslims: "Ye are the best community that has been raised up for mankind. Ye enjoy right conduct and forbid indecency; and ye believe in Allah." (Quran, Surah III: 110), and that constitutes a serious obligation to those who take their religion seriously.

But even after the withdrawal of the colonial armies, the desperately desired success did not materialize, despite its religious urgency. And the longer it was denied them, the more passionately the Arabs longed for it. That is why they cheered Nasser when he appeared to have humiliated the British and French in 1956, and when he merged Egypt and Syria. That is why Arab masses idolized the Palestinian struggle against Israel and that is also why, more recently, they saw Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a hero and a liberator who would turn the Arab world inside out, as unlikely as that was.

And it is out of the same desperate need for success and salvation that many are now inclined to allow the Islamic fundamentalists, who proclaim an even more unlikely prophecy: "Follow the law of God exactly, as we and the 9th century scholars interpret it for you, and everything will finally come right."

For the past two centuries, and to a growing extent today, the Arabs have had the sense of being outsiders in the modern world. They see the light inside, but they are pressed against the glass, but they are helpless, they cannot find the doorknob in order to enter. Initially, the glass against which they pressed so yearningly seemed to be that of colonialism and worldwide imperialism which exploited them and left them under the false impression that they were now independent states.

Later it gradually became clear that there were also internal forces at work in the Arab world barring their access to the house of the modern, essentially Western world. These included: feudalism, the suffocating bonds of family, clan and religion which inhibited individual initiative. Women naturally felt more oppressed than men, and an era of dictatorships persecuted scholars, thinkers and political activists. Oppression at home and military adventures abroad created social, economic and political imbalances, the effects of which the Arabs are still dealing with today.

Now the masses are clinging to political Islam with the hope that it could offer solutions to today's complex challenges. But how can we create a relationship between our cultural legacy, whatever it may be, and the Arabs of today living in today's world?

Such a relationship would require greater perspective and thus the possibility of seeing the past as past and looking it squarely in the eye, instead of throwing oneself blindly into its arms out of the sheer need for something to cling to.

Dr Abdel-Qader Yassine is an Arab scholar living in Europe.

The Star  
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media).

Editorial & Advertising: Fax & Telephone 648298, P.O. Box 9313, Amman, Jordan.

Typesetting, layout and processing done exclusively on Apple Macintosh

Desk-top publishing system.

Images scanned on Hewlett Packard scanners.

Publisher

&  
Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif



# Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Coopération

## La Jordanie importe la musique française

Une flûtiste et un compositeur français au service de la musique jordanienne! Objectif: aider le Conservatoire National (Fondation Noor Al Hussein) à prendre de la hauteur

AU FOND d'une salle du Conservatoire National de Musique Jordanien, Juliette Hurel et Agnès Bashir sont en pleine répétition. C'est la rencontre magique entre deux instruments, la flûte traversière et le piano. Mais aussi celle de deux cultures musicales, française et jordanienne. Mozart (Andante et Rondo), Karg-Elert (La Chaconne), Enesco (Cantabile et Presto), Jolas (Episodic Premier), Schuman (Romances). Tel est le programme du concert de dimanche soir (23 Août) à 20h00, qui sera donné par les deux virtuoses. Le temps fort de ces deux dernières semaines, placées sous le signe de la coopération musicale entre la France et la Jordanie.

### Discipline de travail

Juliette Hurel, flûtiste, professeur au Conservatoire National de Région de Boulogne-Billancourt et Eric Tanguy, compositeur et violoniste effectuent une mission de quatorze jours en Jordanie. Objectif? "Aider le Conservatoire National de Jordanie, affirmer François Giraud, Attaché culturel adjoint français, celui-ci est doté d'un fort dynamisme, mais il a besoin de ponts vers les grands centres de musique classique autant en Europe qu'en Amérique".

Concrètement, Juliette Hurel, prend en charge un groupe de sept flûtistes jordaniens. Qu'ils soient en groupe ou pris individuellement, le stage doit donner à ces jeunes musiciens "une discipline de travail". Deuxième mot d'ordre: oublier la musique de l'enfance... et les complexes. "Je veux leur faire comprendre que même à un petit niveau, on peut jouer des œuvres de Mozart ou de Bach", affirme Juliette Hurel. La flûtiste française devra fournir un bilan de fin de stage avec un programme de travail pour les années à venir. Mais avant tout, elle tient à concrétiser ces deux semaines de travail international. Son groupe donnera un concert, mardi 25 à 17h00 au Conservatoire National de Mu-



Répétition avant le grand concert de dimanche

sique. "C'est mon idée, précise Juliette Hurel, il faut jouer très tôt devant un public, dès qu'on en a la possibilité. Comme ça, par la suite, on a moins le trac". Lors de son séjour à Amman, Juliette Hurel doit également rencontrer l'Orchestre de l'armée jordanienne: "On va me présenter des élèves, je vais les écouter et leur donner quelques conseils..."

### Le choc

En parallèle, Eric Tanguy, jeune compositeur et violoniste français donne des cours à deux élèves du Conservatoire. "Au niveau de la flûte, ils sont informés de ce que l'on fait en Europe, dit-il, pour ce qui est de la composition, ça va être un choc". Sa mission: "Faire prendre conscience aux élèves que la composition n'est l'invention". Pas question de travailler le néo-classique, style qui imite les compositeurs du passé. Eric Tanguy, muni d'une série de bandes

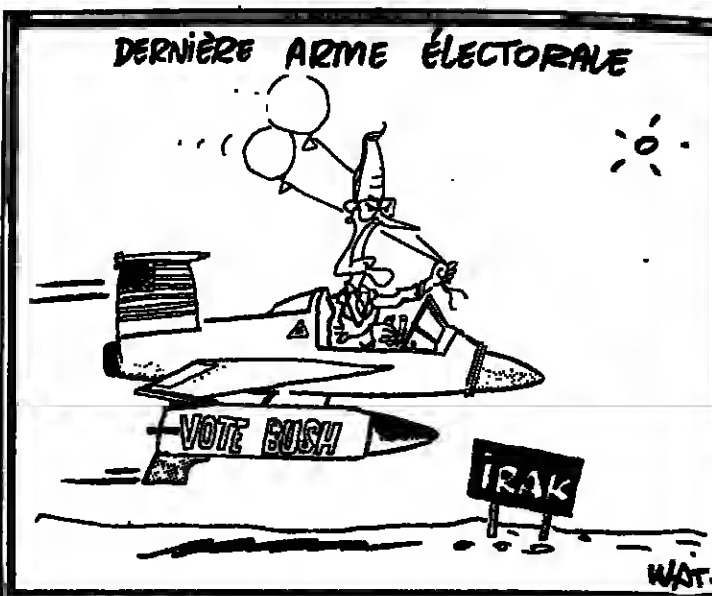
fait découvrir la musique contemporaine à ses deux stagiaires de 17 et 19 ans. Résultat? "C'est complètement différent, nous ne sommes pas habitués à ce genre de musique, avoue Tarik Younis, nous apprenons beaucoup de Tanguy". Il ajoute: "Un jour, je suis sûr que nous pourrions créer des ponts entre la musique arabe et la musique universelle". En d'autres termes, Eric Tanguy essaie de provoquer le décollage, d'inciter ces compositeurs en herbe à inspirer la musique du 21ème siècle. Une musique jordanienne avant tout...

La coopération entre le Conservatoire National de Jordanie et la France ne date pas d'aujourd'hui. En 1989, la présidence et le directeur se sont rendus en France. Le but de ce voyage était de prendre contact et de mieux connaître le système français d'enseignement de la musique. C'était la première étape pour ce petit Conservatoire (200 élèves) qui veut prendre de la hauteur. "Nous avons visité plusieurs Conservatoires et

Ecoles de musique, affirme Kifah Fakhoury, directeur du Conservatoire jordanien, mais notre attention s'est focalisée sur le Conservatoire de Boulogne-Billancourt, la place idéale pour un jumelage". Une étape, avant de prétendre rivaliser avec ceux d'un niveau supérieur.

La même année, Jean Lenet, expert en cordes est venu en Jordanie pour dispenser son savoir. Et mettre au niveau les étudiants. Même objectif pour la flûte. Quant à la composition, le Conservatoire jordanien projette de créer un cours pour les jeunes intéressés par ce domaine. Cette année, le Conservatoire jordanien envoie un élève violoniste au Conservatoire de Boulogne-Billancourt. Avec le secret espoir qu'un jour, elle pourra rejoindre des bandes beaucoup plus prestigieuses. Kifah Fakhoury se met à rêver à la consécration: avoir un ancien élève au Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris.

Francis Mazoyer



### Télex... Jordanie

**HAWATMEH** - Le Secrétaire Général du Front Démocratique de Libération de la Palestine (FDLP) demande aux Arabes de suspendre leur participation au prochain round des pourparlers de paix jusqu'aux élections américaines. "Les Palestiniens et les Arabes ne doivent pas devenir les victimes de la campagne électorale américaine", a déclaré le leader du FDLP cette semaine à Amman. "Nous aussi, nous avons le pouvoir de faire pression sur l'administration américaine, a-t-il ajouté, en ne participant pas aux négociations du 24 août, aucune étape dans le processus de paix ne pourra être franchie sans nous".

**ROUND** - "Nous n'avons pas été informés de la position palestinienne, si ce n'est ce que nous avons lu dans les journaux", a déclaré Abdel Salam Majali, chef négociateur jordanien, à propos d'un éventuel report du prochain round des pourparlers de paix. "Dès que les Palestiniens mettront leurs idées au clair, et nous en informerons, nous serons en mesure de prendre une décision" a-t-il ajouté.

**ETUDE** - Zeid Ben Sohaher lance une étude complète sur les abus dans les services gouvernementaux. Le Premier ministre a fait cette annonce dimanche lors d'une session de la Chambre basse, consacrée au sujet. Selon un comité spécial de la Chambre, un certain nombre de services gouvernementaux doivent toujours 531 millions de JD au ministère des Finances. Au total, quatre sessions ont abordé cette question. Trente députés ont appelé à un contrôle plus strict des finances du gouvernement.

**PARTIS** - Les deux Chambres du Parlement se réunissent aujourd'hui pour discuter d'un certain nombre d'articles litigieux concernant la loi sur les partis. Selon le Président de la Chambre Haute, Ahmad Al Lawzi, ce meeting va se tenir conformément à l'article 92 de la constitution jordanienne.

La page européenne

## Les atouts de l'ECU

Bien qu'elle suscite de nombreuses interrogations, l'Union Economique et Monétaire (UEM) renforcera la cohésion et la souveraineté des économies européennes.

LA MONNAIE unique européenne, dit-on, est une atteinte à la souveraineté de l'Etat. Souveraineté crouppant en vérité qui se borne au choix de l'effigie qui orne les billets. En effet, les impératifs de garantie de la valeur interne et externe de la monnaie ont été aux nations européennes - Allemagne exceptée, tout degré de liberté dans la conduite de leur politique monétaire.

L'on crut longtemps que l'inflation, c'est-à-dire l'érosion de la valeur interne de la monnaie, était le prix à payer pour maintenir le plein emploi. Cette illusion monétaire a disparu. Et avec le triomphe des théories monétaristes, la lutte contre la hausse des prix est devenue le cœur de l'action des Banques Centrales.

Elles se limitent désormais à contraindre la progression de la masse monétaire dans une fourchette compatible avec l'évolution de la production et des échanges. Tout dérapage est sanctionné sur le champ par une hausse des taux d'intérêts.

Or, au sein du Système Monétaire Européen (SME), toute variation des taux d'intérêts, même minime, se traduit par des mouvements massifs de capitaux. Ils se portent vers les devises à haut rendement et mettent sous pression les monnaies fraîchement dévaluées.

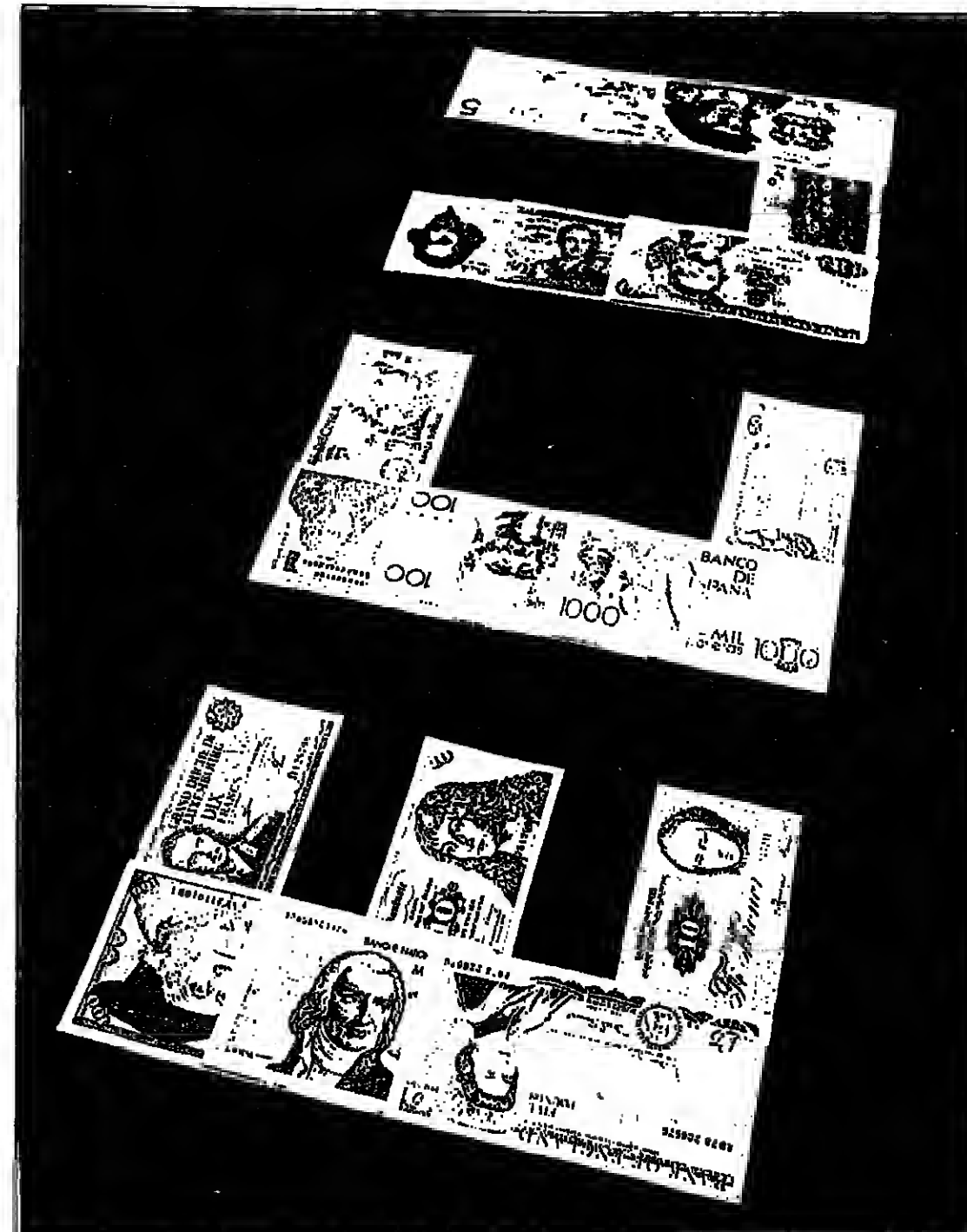
Les mécanismes très astreignants du SME ne tolèrent pas de variation du cours des devises de plus de 2,5% par rapport à leur cours pivot. Aussi, tout pays dont la monnaie est attaquée est rapidement contraint à relever ses taux d'intérêts pour éviter une dévaluation non seulement humiliante, mais aussi économiquement injustifiée.

C'est donc le pays dont l'économie est la plus solide, en l'occurrence l'Allemagne, qui donne le "la", et fixe les taux d'intérêts planchers. Les autres pays membres du SME sont tenus de se positionner au-dessus, quel qu'il en coûte à leurs économies.

En définitive, la seule option (bien peu enviable) dont ils disposent est un relèvement des taux d'intérêts, puisqu'une baisse généralisée ne peut voir le jour sans que le premier de cordée n'y consente.

Ainsi, la résurgence de l'inflation en Allemagne, conséquence de l'emballement des premiers temps de la réunification, a conduit la Bundesbank à relever ses taux à plusieurs reprises. Elle a de la sorte brisé les espoirs de baisse des taux que, gagnée par le chômage, la France nourrissait. Ironie du sort, celle-ci subit aujourd'hui des taux d'intérêts élevés, records, alors que l'inflation est maîtrisée et que le commerce extérieur sera excédentaire pour la première fois en près de vingt ans.

De fait, l'Union Economique et Monétaire (UEM) qui se profile en Europe relèverait de la souveraineté des Etats plus qu'elle ne les en déposséderait. La future Banque Centrale européenne tiendrait davantage compte de la situation de chacun et ne mettrait pas l'Europe en récession pour soigner la fièvre d'un seul. Les autres



verus de la monnaie unique européenne (l'ECU - European Currency Unit) sont moins ignorées, puisque ce sont celles (mais dans toute leur logique) que l'on invoquait lors de la création du SME.

C'est tout d'abord un puissant facteur d'intégration européenne, rapprochant les entreprises et faisant converger les performances économiques. Accentuant la fluidité des échanges, elle susciterait l'apparition de nouveaux exportateurs que le risque de change contrariait.

Ensuite, elle supprimerait un certain nombre de coûts et structures intermédiaires liés à la couverture du risque de change. Les entreprises européennes en profiteraient via une amélioration de leur productivité et de leur compétitivité.

Enfin, s'appuyant sur un vaste marché domestique et sur une Banque Centrale bâtie sur le modèle germanique, l'ECU concurrencerait le Dollar en tant que monnaie de commerce mondial et pourrait, à brève échéance, le supplanter à la première place.

L'Europe jouirait alors du privilège exorbitant de financer ses déficits avec sa propre monnaie (comme les Etats-Unis aujourd'hui) puisque le reste du

monde serait toujours demandeur d'une monnaie qui huileait les rouages de son commerce. Il s'agit non seulement d'un privilège mais aussi d'un devoir, puisque le déficit de la balance des paiements de la première puissance monétaire est la condition sine qua non au bon fonctionnement du commerce mondial qu'il alimente en moyens de paiement. Le reste du monde consent ainsi à prendre à sa charge une partie de son train de vie, pourvu qu'il dispose d'un moyen de transaction liquide et sûr.

Or, en matière de liquidité et de sécurité, l'ECU aurait en lui-même beaucoup d'atouts à faire valoir. Car l'Europe pèse dans le commerce mondial d'un poids largement supérieur à celui des Etats-Unis, pays relativement peu ouvert sur l'extérieur. Dès lors qu'un certain nombre d'économies se tourneraient vers l'ECU, la liquidité de celui-ci pourrait surpasser celle du Dollar. De nombreux pays pourraient en effet adopter l'ECU qui apparaîtrait bien plus sûr que le Dollar.

Les deux devises coexisteraient probablement un certain temps, puisque manquant du caractère de valeur refuge (apanage de la monnaie de la première puissance militaire du globe), l'ECU ne pourrait remplacer complètement le dollar.

C'est un fait: les Etats-Unis ont abusé du privilège d'émettre leur propre monnaie pour financer le déséquilibre de leur balance commerciale. Les déficits records de

ces dernières années ont entraîné une prolifération de par le monde des avoirs en Dollars. Ces Dollars en circulation sont autant de créances sur l'économie des Etats-Unis.

Leur montant excède désormais fortement la valeur de la production américaine. Un déséquilibre tout à fait préjudiciable à la stabilité de la monnaie. Aussi, un mouvement de défiance, c'est-à-dire de fuite devant le Dollar, pourrait faire chuter son cours vertigineusement, jusqu'à ce que l'écart se dissipe, seul événement susceptible de mettre un terme à cette déchéance.

Un tel mouvement est tout à fait possible dès lors que l'ECU représenterait une alternative sérieuse au Dollar. Emanant d'un espace économique administré et équilibré, liquide et sûr, l'ECU reprendrait les attributs de la monnaie américaine, sans toutefois ses sautes d'humeur.

Les deux devises coexisteraient probablement un certain temps, puisque manquant du caractère de valeur refuge (apanage de la monnaie de la première puissance militaire du globe), l'ECU ne pourrait remplacer complètement le dollar.

Jean-Philippe Debas

### L'EDITO

#### Eviter la partition!

LA PLAN militaire anglo-franco-américain révélé récemment, qui vise à empêcher la force aérienne irakienne d'intervenir en zone chiite (Irak) suscite des questions, sinon des inquiétudes. La condition des droits de l'homme dans cette partie de l'Irak est tellement consternante, qu'une réaction internationale semble à première vue justifiée. Mais si cette action constitue un prétexte à une "partition" de l'Irak, il y a de quoi troubler les esprits.

Quelques semaines auparavant, certains analystes convenaient que la sécurité des monarchies dans le Golfe ne pourrait être garantie qu'avec "l'affaiblissement" de leur inattaquable voisin. Le nord de l'Irak, principale région pétrolière, objet de tant de convoitises, n'est-il pas déjà en scission totale? Un scénario prévisible pourrait réduire l'Irak à trois micro-Etats: Kurde, riche en pétrole, Chite, fort de sa proximité avec l'Iran, et Sunnite, dépourvu de la puissance qu'il a mal su gérer jusqu'ici.

Les pays du Golfe ne sont plus en mesure de supporter une menace que représente non seulement Saddam Hussein, mais aussi l'Irak dans son intégrité. Si la menace permanente contre la souveraineté des petits pays ne peut en aucun cas être tolérée, l'éventuelle "partition" d'autres par des superpuissances serait un précédent très préoccupant pour le futur des nations.

L'alternative idéale serait de garantir la souveraineté et l'intégrité de tous les pays, y compris de leurs minorités, selon les normes et les conventions des Nations Unies.

Le devoir d'ingérence du droit international devrait devenir la base d'un pouvoir réel, tant que la démocratie n'aura pas régné partout dans le monde. Créer les outils et les mécanismes pour protéger ce pouvoir est la tâche de toutes les nations sans exception.

La nouvelle donne des Nations Unies, avec la Diplomatie préventive et tout ce qu'elle englobe de moyens de résoudre pacifiquement un conflit, pourrait être une référence sérieuse. En vue de garantir la sécurité dans les pays du Golfe et d'empêcher la "partition" de l'Irak.

THE STAR  
648298





**Congratulations!!**  
Graduations, appointments, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....  
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

### Music Review:

## The modernist project

By Ahmad Humaid  
Special to The Star

What is the relevance of "disco" music made by two West Amman "kids", who spend most of their time slaving away at their synthesizers, sequencers and the rest of their high tech music equipment? Well, this is a quite legitimate question to ask after you've listened to the two debut instrumentals "Running Away" and "Abandoned Places" composed by the Jordanian duo "The Project" (broadcast on Najat Dajani's Megamix show on Radio Jordan). One could, superficially, dismiss the music as being just another dose of Western disco music available, at best, for party's background "muzak". Understanding "The Project's" music needs a bit of probing deeper, beyond the form, into the background, influences and creative dogma of this duo.

Both members of The Project are second year university students. Both of them are definitely not party animals. Hyatham Ibrahim has been a computer and technology fanatic for quite some time, with a love for science fiction and history of science. He cannot play any conventional musical instruments (except for a little keyboard), and he never received any relevant musical training. One the other hand, his partner, Ala' Diab is a very good keyboard player with a good musical ear.

Their style is influenced by a wide range of music such as the popish music of the Pet Shop Boys and Erasure to the highly sterile music of the German avant garde scene, especially the pioneers of electronic sound Kraftwerk, and sometimes drifting into the style of contemporary Acid rock and House music of bands like Front 242, 808 State, The Beloved and Depeche Mode. The Project's work definitely has a substantial intellectual depth. They admit that their work is ultra modern, representing a complete break from any traditional Oriental or Arabic music. They want to rise above the musical "backwardness" and superficial "commercialism" of current Arabic music and reach the limits of modern music both in form and technique. Their two instrumentals are strong examples of the use of computers and synthesizers to create textures of synthetic sounds which are overlaid on highly energetic rhythms. Their music is built up, layer by layer of electronic bass lines, expressive short melodies, punchy drums and percussion effects which build up to climaxes then suddenly fall to minimal harmonies to rise again to another variation of the main theme. Hyatham and Ala' don't have any

## Changes to route of Rothmans Cyprus Rally

● IT'S NOT true that your name has to end in 'opoulos' if you want to mount the winner's rostrum of the Rothmans Cyprus Rally. But it might help. For the past two years, Cypriot drivers have emerged victorious in this prestigious — and tough — European Championship event.

In 1990 Dimi Mavropoulos realized a long-standing dream to win his 'home' rally. But in 1991 his hopes of doing the double were shattered by Tony Jeropoulos from Limasol.

This year's Rothmans Cyprus Rally — the 20th — will be held from September 25-27, with scrutineering on the 24th, and it sees some route changes because of the increased number of tourists on the island this summer.

As always, the start and finish will be at the inland capital, Nicosia. Clerk of the course Takis Kyriakides, who has been closely involved with each and every Cyprus Rally, said the 20th anniversary event looks like attracting a large contingent of foreign entrants. "All the indications point to around 30 foreign crews competing this year," he said. "This is a high percentage of the 80 or so entrants we expect to be taking part."

He added that the route changes were made to enable more of the thousands of tourists who will be in Cyprus at the end of September to enjoy watching at an event described as one of the toughest on the European Championship circuit. Drivers can expect to cover more than 800 kilometers and endure 21 gruelling special stages in the space of 72 hours.

## From Avon Anti-Cellulite Cream

● Specialized massage cream to help skin look and feel smoother firmer and more resilient. Helps reduce the rippled, 'orange peel' effect skin (called cellulite) which appears on hips, thighs and buttocks. Massaging with this gentle moisturizing cream will help increase circulation, reviving sluggish skin and improving its vitality.

The cream should be massaged into cleansed dry skin in the problem areas for several minutes. Use daily for all skin types (200 ml). Plus many, many more new beauty products from AVON coming to you in the near future.

## Agenda

### EXHIBITION:

● The Alla Art Gallery is exhibiting paintings by the Jordanian artist Fayed Dweik. The last day for this exhibit is on Thursday 20 August from 10am to 1:30 and from 4pm to 7pm at the Insurance Building, Jebel Amman, first circle.

### FIELD TRIP:

● The Friends of Archaeology are organizing a Field Trip to

Oman. The land where Marco Polo and Ibn Batuta trekked, where Job was entombed, where the Queen of Sheba reigned, and the place from which Sindbad the Sailor set sail. The tour cost JD 1180 which includes: two economy air tickets, one for Amman/Muscat/Salalah/Muscat, accommodation (full board) based on sharing bedrooms in the best hotels in the area and all transfers, tips and sightseeing fees by a deluxe air-conditioned bus. For information and payment, please contact Muna Zaghoul, POA treasurer (659978). The deadline for full payment is September 15, and the 40 participants will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

## The Jasmine shows its flowers



The Jasmine Center recently exhibited art works made by the center's students. The exhibition included a variety of exquisite items such as flower arrangements, sewn and woven garments, an overwhelming amount of hand made pieces including painted glassware, mirrors and silk clothes. Art enthusiasts and other visitors adored the intricate items and wished the management further progress in the years to come.

Vesna Masharqa is a Clinical Psychologist who invites readers to send in their letters for any questions on child upbringing to The Star, P.O. Box 3191, Amman.

### Child Psychology:

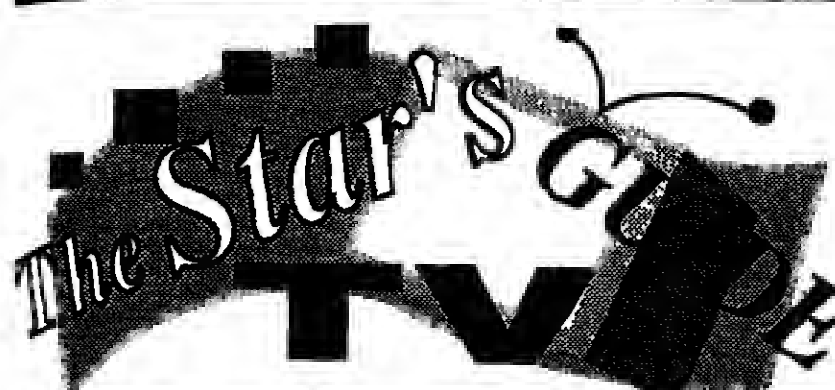
## What to do with overweight children

By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to The Star

THE STAR received a letter from a mother who wanted to know why some children are overweight and what is the solution. It was a belief of the past that being fat means being healthy, but some societies today still adore children who are chubby, because they look 'cute' or mothers may believe that their overweight child is a sign of good health and promotes her cooking skills. Medical reports show that overweight children — as much as underweight children — are more prone to sickness than children who are growing on a balanced diet. To be healthy means knowing how to enjoy life and to have the energy to do so. A healthy child is a child who can challenge his physical and mental growth simultaneously, has a natural flow of energy, is curious in his nature to experiment and explore his surroundings. What helps the child better understand himself brings him

happiness and satisfaction. If a child has healthy eating and sleeping habits and his time is structured according to his nature and temperament, he will have a balanced energy input and output, and maintain a balanced growth development. In all cases, a child's growth should always be monitored. Parents should discuss with their child his emotional life, behavior and attitudes and their relationship to the possible changes in their life in and out of the family setting considering the fact that layers of fat may be a reflection of frustration. When a child suddenly becomes fat, the mother should consider this problem with lot of attention and concern. Increased appetite and excessive requirements towards sugar and carbohydrates may be caused when a child is feeling helpless, afraid and frustrated — psychological hunger is a mechanism of defence. On the other hand, there are children who were fat since their early years and continued to be so all their lives. They may either

have the same problems as the child who has become suddenly overweight or their diet set by their parents may be the cause. Some mothers believe that food is an expression of love and they insist on stuffing their children and buying them sweets whenever their children are unhappy as their mothers used to. This is how children learn to substitute love for food. If parents talk to their children and learn about the developmental problems they are facing, and assist them to resolve these problems, they may be able to work out the causes and the cure for their child's unhealthy development. In addition to this they should reconsider family eating habits and think about how much freedom every member of the family has in terms of meal times and snacks.



Programs on  
Jordan  
Television  
from  
22 August -  
29 August

### ENGLISH PROGRAM

#### SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers and New Practical Jokes.  
9:00 — Encounter.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Film: Picture Perfect. Starring Mark Hamill and Katherine Wilkening. An American photographer working in Paris gets entangled in a spy case.

#### SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings.  
9:10 — Documentary "Inside The Reef."  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Midnight Caller.

#### MONDAY

8:30 — Close to Home.  
9:10 — Gone to the Dogs. (Episode 1). A drama about a rich married couple and a greyhound trainer. Starring: Alison Steadman and Jim Broadbent.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Strauss family.

#### TUESDAY

8:30 — Aeropolis Now.  
9:00 — Mr. Bean.  
9:30 — Teck.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Feature Film "Little Nikita." Starring Richard Bradford and Richard Jenkins. A spy movie about the dangerous and deadly 'Sleeping Agents'.

#### WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the Bell.  
9:00 — Wednesday Forum.  
9:30 — Man of the people.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — Stay the Night. The true story of a mother's determination to get even with a woman who put her son in prison for life.

#### THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons.  
9:00 — NBA Basketball.  
9:30 — News in English.  
10:20 — Feature Film "White Hot." Starring: Loni Anderson, Robert Dan and Paul Dooley. A movie about the mysterious death of a famous actress, Thelma Todd.

#### FRIDAY

8:30 — Golden Girls.  
9:10 — Root into Europe.  
10:00 — News in English.  
10:20 — EL CID.  
11:10 — The Powers That Be.

#### FRENCH PROGRAM

##### SAMEDI

6:00 — Des Pelles Histoires Presque Vraies.  
6:10 — Les Tortues Ninja.  
6:30 — La Gymnastique.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Fenetre Sur. A local program.

##### DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant.  
5:50 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres.  
6:10 — La Chance aux Chansons.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Magazine. E-M6. A cellulite magazine.

##### LUNDI

6:00 — Au Clair de Lune.  
6:10 — Le monde sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — The weekly sports mag.

#### azine.

##### MARDI

6:00 — Santé vision. A health program.  
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. A series about two doctors.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Le Beaux moments du Cirque.

##### MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Monde est à Vous. A variety and cultural program.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Azimuts. A scientific Magazine.

##### JEUDI

6:00 — Circus Partenaire. A documentary about the circus.  
6:30 — Maguy.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

##### VENDREDI

5:30 — Documentary: Geoscope.  
5:50 — Les Cles de Fort Boyard. A Game show.  
7:00 — News in French.  
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program.



Paul Nicholas as James Shepherd in 'Close to Home' on Monday at 8:30

## HOROSCOPE



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Unconscious facts determine much of your actions. Listen to your inner voice.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): You may have lots to say. Excellent judgment. Wednesday is fab for business affairs.

GEMINI (21 May - 21 June): Know your worth this week. It could mean more money in the bank. Monday may find you travelling.

CANCER (22 June - 22 July): Sunday is great for rejuvenating your aching muscles. Moon in Virgo stimulate your excellent productivity.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Unexpressed emotions could hold you back. Don't push too hard for what you want.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Moon in Cancer can bring wonderful sharing with friends who are like family. Dates can be expensive during the weekend.

LIBRA (23 September - 23 October): Get straight in your mind

your top priority career goals. A loving weekend ahead. SCORPIO (24 October - 21 November): Good family relations make you feel better about life. Good relationships develop.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Joint financial matters are improving. Excellent business ideas. Establish better relations with career colleagues.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Give yourself time to unwind — you need it. Love comes to you when you are willing to please.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Your emotions can be your best guide this week. Enjoy your activities, but keep a low profile.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): You have the energy to put more fun in your life. Rest a little. A merry weekend — Romantic.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: Happy Birthday Virgo! Something of your past could be reactivated this month. Tie things up in a nice bundle.

## TOP HITS

### POP SINGLES



1 This used to be my playground, Madonna, Warner Bros Video (R-1991)  
2 Baby Got Back, Sir-Mix-A-Lot, Reprise  
3 Baby-Baby-Baby, TLC, Arista  
4 Just Another Day, Jon Secada, SBK  
5 November Rain, Guns N' Roses, Geffen  
6 End of the Road, Boyz II Men, Motown  
7 Wishing on a Star, The Cover Girls, Epic  
8 Jam, Michael Jackson, Epic  
9 Give Him Something He Can Feel, Ex Vogue, Epic  
10 I'll Be There, Mariah Carey, Columbia

### VIDEO RENTALS

1 Bugsy, Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Columbia TriStar Home Video (R-1991)  
2 Star Trek VI, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, Paramount Home Video (PG-1991)  
3 Cape Fear, Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, MCA/Universal Home Video, (PG-1991)  
4 Addams Family, Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)  
5 JFK, Kevin Costner, Warner Home Video (R-1991)  
6 The Hand that Rocks the Cradle, Annabella Sciorra, Rebecca DeMornay, Warner Home Video (R-1991)  
7 My Girl, Macaulay Culkin, Anna Chlumsky, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-1991)  
8 Father of the Bride, Steve Martin, Touchstone Home Video, (PG-1991)  
9 Grand Canyon, Kevin Kline, Danny Glover, Fox Video (R-1991)  
10 Shinning Through, Michael Douglas, Melanie Griffith, Fox Video (R-1991)

## Dining Out

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## Would You Believe.....

In Britain, a new law makes it a crime for a bartender to serve a beer with too much foam on the top. It's called serving a short measure.

Sixteen new African nations joined the United Nations in just one year: 1960.

The Berlin Wall was more than 26 miles long.

Catgut, the stuff of musical and unequal strings, is never made from cats. It usually comes from the intestines of sheep.

The cloud cover on the planet Venus never lifts.

As of 1991, there hasn't been a Triple Crown winner in horse racing in 13 years. That isn't a record, however. There was a 25-year stretch between Citation's Triple Crown and Secretariat's.

## Solution

ACROSS  
1. Reminder of a wound  
6. Without dilution  
9. Terra —  
14. Predicament  
15. Exhort  
16. Month  
17. Like a desert  
18. Show pleasure  
19. Intended  
20. Be inclined toward  
23. Pullman car  
24. Otherwise  
26. Cama to-gather  
28. Dinner or supper  
29. Health resort  
31. Church sections  
34. Swiss capital  
35. Homo sapiens  
36. Ragrattad

DOWN  
37. Baseball's Roger  
38. Gasp for breath  
39. See eagle  
40. Stimulant  
41. Livestock land  
42. Coterie  
43. Raddish  
44. Sesame  
45. Danube tributary  
47. Makes up one's mind  
51. Receive married  
55. Open  
56. Br'ish composer  
57. Space  
58. Tropical fruit  
59. Sugar source  
60. Dagger  
61. Change  
62. Employ  
63. Baling: Lat.

DOWN  
1. Sovereigns of Iran  
2. Reef material  
3. Swarming  
4. Recovered from pawn  
5. Lump of gold  
6. Trial and —  
7. Money exchange  
8. Wetch over  
9. Garbo role  
10. Unwraps  
11. Storekeeper  
12. Hua  
13. Palo —  
21. Coples  
22. Affluence  
27. Norwegian navigator  
29. Spam of distress  
30. Pokar stake  
31. God of war  
32. Unadorned  
33. Feeling

34. Forbids  
37. Gileva  
38. Fence of stakes  
40. Betrayer of a trust  
41. Oriental staple food  
44. Doctrinal  
46. Twilled fabric  
47. Recipient  
48. Ms. Day  
49. Large water pitcher  
50. Treacherous one  
51. Stupor  
52. Egg-shaped  
53. Prohibition  
54. Mineral aarths

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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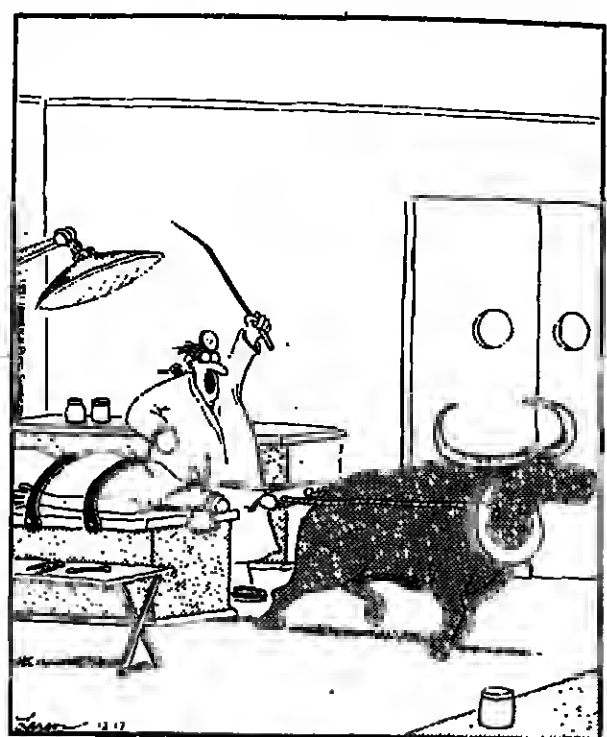
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
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51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

## THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Until his medical license was suspended, cosmetic surgeon Dr. Irwin Blumenfeld left many of his patients with the tragic side effect known as "buffalo nose."



Slave-ship entertainers



"And now the weather — well, doggone it, but I'm afraid that cold front I told you about yesterday is just barreling in to mess us."

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Hungarian Airlines ..... 637827/644036  
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Turkish Airlines ..... 659102  
Yemen Airways ..... 628175  
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Queen Alia Airport (08) 53200

## Diary

### Activities

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Royal Cultural Centre ..... 661026/7  
American Centre Library ..... 641520  
British Council ..... 636147/8  
French Cultural Centre ..... 637009  
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Soviet Cultural Centre ..... 644203  
Spanish Cultural Centre ..... 624049  
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Amman Mun. Library ..... 637111  
Univ. of Jordan Library ..... 834555

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Rainbow ..... 625155  
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Philadelphia ..... 634144  
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Orthodox Club ..... 810491  
Royal Automobile Club ..... 815410  
Royal Shooting Club ..... 736572  
Royal Chess Club ..... 673713  
Royal Racing Club ..... 09-801233  
Jordan Bridge Assoc. .... 676990

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#### Emergencies

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Amman Civil Defence ..... 198, 199  
Civil Defence Irbid ..... 271292  
Civil Defence Dept. .... 661111  
Ambulance ..... 193, 775111  
Amman fire brigade ..... 198  
First aid ..... 630341  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Civil Defence rescue ..... 630341  
Police rescue ..... 621111, 637777  
Police headquarters ..... 639141  
Traffic police ..... 896390  
Electric Power Co. .... 636381/4  
Water complaints ..... 897467  
Queen Alia Airport ..... (08) 53200  
RJ Flight Info ..... (08) 53200

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Kheidi Maternity ..... 644281/6  
Akhel Maternity ..... 644241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642562  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636141  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Musaher Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian-Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

#### General

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The Star  
Jordan's political, economic  
and cultural weekly

Editorial & advertising  
telephone number: 648298

Distribution: Jordan  
Distribution Agency,  
telephone: 630191

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Nicosia 21  
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Prague 2  
Denmark ..... 45  
Copenhagen (inner) 1  
Copenhagen (outer) 2  
Ecuador ..... 593  
Quito 2  
Egypt ..... 20  
Kairo 2  
Eire ..... 353  
Dublin 1  
Cork 21  
Finland ..... 358  
Helsinki 0  
France ..... 33

Paris 1  
Germany W ..... 49  
Bonn 288  
Greece ..... 30  
Athens/Piraeus 1  
India ..... 91  
Bangalore 812  
New Delhi 11  
Bombay 22  
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Rotterdam 10  
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Al Bayda 6  
Hodeidah 3  
Sanaa 5  
Taiz 4  
Nigeria ..... 234  
Lagos 1  
Norway ..... 47  
Oslo 2  
Oman ..... 968  
Pakistan ..... 92  
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Peshawar 321  
Rawalpindi/Islamabad 51  
Paraguay ..... 595  
Asuncion 54  
Peru ..... 51  
Lima 14  
Philippines ..... 63  
Manila 2  
Poland ..... 48  
Warsaw 22  
Qatar ..... 974  
Romania ..... 40  
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Al-Madina 4  
Dammam 3  
Jeddah 2  
Mecca 2  
Riyadh 1  
Spain ..... 34  
Barcelona 3  
Madrid 1

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Majorca 71  
Sri Lanka ..... 94  
Colombo 1  
Sudan ..... 249  
Khartoum 11  
Sweden ..... 46  
Stockholm 8  
Syria ..... 963  
Damascus 11  
Taiwan ..... 886  
Taipei 2  
Thailand ..... 66  
Bangkok 2  
Tunisia ..... 216  
Tunis 1  
Turkey ..... 90  
Ankara 4  
Istanbul 1  
UAE ..... 971  
Abu Dhabi 2  
Ajman 6  
Al-Ain 3  
Dubai 4  
Fujairah 70  
Ghayathi 52  
Ras Al Khaimah 77  
Sharjah 6  
Umm Al Quwain 6  
UK ..... 44  
London (inner 71/outer 81)  
Uruguay ..... 598  
Montevideo 2  
USA ..... 1  
New York 212/718  
Washington 202  
USSR ..... 7  
Moscow 095  
Yemen ..... 58  
Sanaa 2  
Yugoslavia ..... 38

## JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

## Thin air slams

IN SOME sessions you may not meet any slam out of the 24 boards you play at that session, but for some other sessions you meet more than a slam and you start to feel them around:

♦ A10873  
♦ A864  
♦ 6  
♦ AK2

N  
W  
S  
B

♦ KJ964  
♦ K1053  
♦ —  
♦ Q975

South West North East  
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass  
4 ♦ (1) Pass 4 ♦ (1) Pass  
4 ♦ (1) Pass 5 ♦ (2) Pass  
6 ♦ (1) Pass 6 ♦ (1) Pass  
6 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

(1) Cue bidding  
(2) Cue bid and showing one or three of the three top honours of the agreed upon suit (Spade in this case)

I was completely satisfied with the bidding, my partner started cue bidding directly after I jumped in spades, he knew that we most one of the three top honours and also knew about the diamond void due to the repetitive cue bid and the king of heart via the 6♦ cue bid.

To justify any jump to 2♦ I should have one queen at least which makes the slam highly probable.

The following hand we met at a very early stage and I didn't give much analysis for the final bid. After M. Kheir Qandour bid 5♦, I listed the information I received up to that stage, he should be holding:

— Five cards of heart topped by the King  
— Four cards of diamonds  
— The spade Ace

I analysed that he should hold the ♥Q or 7N, but I did not recognise that the ♠Q also is enough to make 7N. The 7N bid is disastrous only if he held the three top honours of spade, the king of hearts and nothing else, which is unlikely. The 7♦ brought us 40% score in the hand but 7N scored 90%.

♦ AK  
♦ KQ863  
♦ 9874  
♦ 75

♦ A73  
♦ AKQ3  
♦ AKJ84

South West North East  
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♦ Pass  
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ (1) Pass  
4 ♥ (1) Pass 4 ♦ (1) Pass  
4N (2) Pass 5 ♦ (1) Pass  
5 ♦ (1) Pass 7 ♦ 1